

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2087

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 6698

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJ: NARCOTICS COOPERATION INITIATIVE: COCAINE CONSPIRACY CASE

REF: STATE 205504

1. LEGAL TEAM HEADED BY LOUIS FIELDS OF STATE DEPARTMENT LEGAL ADVISER'S OFFICE, KURT MULLENBERGER, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, ROBERT MC DERMOTT, ASSISTANT US ATTORNEY, AND ERNEST STAPLES OF DEA, HELD MEETINGS ON AUGUST 23 WITH PRINCIPAL BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES CONCERNED WITH LOCAL PROSECUTION OF THOSE BOLIVIANS INCARCERATED OR BEING SOUGHT IN BOLIVIA IN RELATION TO THIS SPECIAL CASE. ON AUGUST 24 GROUP MET WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND MINISTRY LEGAL ADVISER AT HEAD OF NARCOTICS UNIT. IN SUMMARY, MEETINGS WERE POSITIVE, FRIENDLY, AND DISPLAYED COOPERATION OF BOLIVIANS WITH REGARD TO THE COCAINE CONSPIRACY CASE. THE BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES REPORTED TO THEIR MINISTER THAT THEY HAD CONCLUDED THAT THEY COULD LAUNCH A FORMAL PROSECUTION OF BOLIVIANS INVOLVED BASED ON CERTIFIED DOCUMENTATION WHICH THE AMBASSADOR TURNED OVER TO THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR. THE MINISTER INFORMED THE TEAM THAT THE GOB WILL PROCEED AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE TO BRING THE FULL WIEGHT OF BOLIVIAN LAW TO BEAR ON THE BOLIVIAN DEFENDANTS APPREHENDED HERE BASED ON THE DOCUMENTS HE HAS RECEIVED FROM THE TEAM.

2. FIELDS CONGRATULATED THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR EFFECTIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT WORK IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE WHICH HAS RESULTED IN THE ARRESTS OF NUMEROUS TRAFFICKERS. HE EXPALINED TO THE MINISTER THE REASONS FOR THE INITIAL
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PUBLICITY FOLLOWING THE UNSEALING OF THE INDICTMENT IN THE CON-

SPIRACY CASE AND SAID THAT IN THE FUTURE THERE WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND EFFECTIVE ADVANCE COORDINATION WITH THE MINISTRY BEFORE ANY SUCH PUBLICITY WERE MADE. THE MINISTER SAID HE UNDERSTOOD AND THAT WORKING TOGETHER COOPERATIVELY THE US AND BOLIVIAN WILL GAIN EXPERIENCE IN ACHIEVING MORE EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION.

3. MULLENBERGER SAID THAT CLOSE COLLABORATION BETWEEN "FISCALES" WOULD BE HIGHLY BENEFICIAL AS THE TWO COUNTRIES ENGAGE IN MORE INTENSIVE WORK ON INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING RINGS. THE MINISTER WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE BOLIVIAN LEGAL OFFICIALS IN AS CLOSE COOPERATION AS POSSIBLE WITH THOSE OF THE US.

4. THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR PAST ASSISTANCE AND CURRENT TECHNICAL AID PROVIDED BY THE US IN COMBATING NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND SUGGESTED THAT WITH ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, EQUIPMENT, AND TRAINING A MORE EFFECTIVE EFFORT COULD BE MOUNTED IN BOLIVIA. HE SAID THAT FOR THE SECOND SIX MONTHS OF 1976 THE GOB WILL APPROPRIATE AN ADDITIONAL \$252,000 FOR NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES WHICH WILL RESULT IN THE HIRING OF MANY ADDITIONAL AGENTS. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES TOGETHER WITH US ARE PREPARING AN EDUCATIONAL FILM ON COCAINE PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING WHICH HE HOPES WILL BE SUITABLE FOR USE IN THE US AND ELSEWHERE IN ADDITION TO ITS PRIME PURPOSE TO ORIENT PEOPLE TO THE PROBLEM IN BOLIVIA. FIELDS NOTED THAT THE SPECIAL REQUEST MADE BY PRESIDENT BANZER TO SECRETARY KISSINGER IN JUNE WAS BEING CONSIDERED AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE USG AND THAT AN ANSWER WAS EXPECTED PROMPTLY LOOKING TOWARD POSSIBLE INCREASES IN USG ASSISTANCE FOR THE BOLIVIAN DRUG EFFORT.

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